

# CAT Tales

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January 2017

## Greetings CAT Members

Hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year! We are all looking forward to a great show in March. The board is gearing up, so if members have suggestions, input, thoughts, or questions, now is the time to let us know!

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# Letter from the Secretary

Dear CAT Members,

I will be posting a pre-show newsletter. It will contain information about the upcoming 2017 CAT show. Once details are finalized, we will be sending that information your way. The next CAT board meeting is January 12. Here is a list of items on the agenda that will be discussed and then posted in the pre-show newsletter:

- Judges. As of now, Dan has picked out judges and spoke with them, however are not under contact yet. Once the details are final, we will post that information.
- Seminars. We have discussed hosting a business seminar. However, we need much more than that! If there is an area of taxidermy that members want to learn/see, please contact anyone on the bod.
- Golden State Challenge
- Food/Menu for the show
- New T-Shirt Sales
- Hotels close by and RV parking costs.

More information will follow. We look forward to having another successful year for CAT!

Sincerely, Stacey Landreth CAT Secretary

Removable Antlers: Sean McKinney

Here are some pics that I have for detachable antlers. The biggest thing is these were done to an elk that was already mounted so just kind of reverse if you will. All the drilling will be done from the bottom of the skull plate or brain cavity side.

1. I drill down the center of the antler with a 1/4" X 12"
2. Once you drill into the core of the antler (the drillings will start out white then turn to brown ) I try to get as much depth as I can without drilling through the antler. If you go through or partially go through it's no big deal you just have to repair with epoxy sculpt or similar and touch up paint then rub dirt in to match the color of the antler. Just an added step that takes time to fix.
3. I follow the center hole up with a 1/2" X 12" drill bit. It makes it easier to drill the small hole then the larger hole.
4. Once the larger hole is established I insert a long piece of rod or leave the drill bit in the hole which gives you a guide to follow to drill the smaller 1/4" hole or stop pin. This is the pin that keeps the antler from rotating or spinning. This hole does not have to be as deep. Only drill this hole deep enough to get past the antler burr about a 1/2"-3/4"
5. Once both holes are drilled into the base of the antler on both sides you will want to cut a small V into the back of the skull plate. I unfortunately do not have a picture of this. The reason for the V cut is in my opinion you will want to fill the brain cavity or make the skull plate as strong as you can which I do by filling with bondo. (Later step)
6. Once the V cut is done mount the antlers on your form like you would if you're going to mount the hide.
7. Once the antlers are mounted now comes the scary time to cut the antlers off the skull plate and you will need help or have to tie the antlers to something overhead. **DO NOT CUT THE ANTLER BURR!** Sometimes you may have to cut from both sides as some burrs have a curve.
8. Once the antlers are cut off put the 1/2" and 1/4" pins into the skull plate and seal the front and side of the skull plate with clay. Screw holes also.
9. This is a good time to make sure the antlers go on and off and make any adjustments needed like cutting the pins to the proper length.
10. I mix bondo and fiberglass resin to make the bondo flowable and pour the bondo into the V cut at the back of the skull plate to fill the brain cavity and make it solid. The clay will keep the bondo from running out all over the place. The bondo will also lock in the pins. Position the form so that the nose is pointed at the ground so you can pour the bondo in easier.

11. Should be good to mount.

Let me know if I missed any step and I will walk you through it. May be a good article for you for one of the newsletters. Sending pics also

**Thank You,**

Sean McKinney



Elk already mounted  
Removable antlers  
after mounted.



Start with ¼" hole  
first. This is your ¼"  
pin.



Next, ½" hole. This is your main pin.



This is what your holes will look like once drilled. Be sure to center your main pin (1/2")



Cut the antler from the skull cap. Follow instructions above. Do not cut burrs!



What it will look like  
once its cut



Insert bars to  
measure length and  
mark. Follow said  
instructions above.



Cut where marked



Pull the pins, sand edges, and test fit.

## Closing

Members! Please be considering which mounts to bring to showcase! Invite friends, family, and customers. We are anticipating another great show!